

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

September 2015

Marching through history...

September 2015 will be a big month in Tallong: Tuesday 29th September, vast numbers of people are expected to descend on Tallong as they pass through the village on the 36-day 520km Kangaroo Recruitment March from Wagga Wagga to Campbelltown.

The marchers (including some descendants of the original 1915 march) will arrive in Tallong from Marulan at about midday for a picnic sausage sizzle lunch with salads and slices at the Memorial Hall.

A group of students from Tallong Public School will meet and greet the marchers with a banner as they enter the town. Several will read from old postcards from the WW1 front.

Janet Black has put together a magnificent display of Tallong photographs from the early 20th century to give an idea of what the countryside and village looked like when the original march came through.

A highlight will be photographs that have been recently donated to the village by Greg Watson who contacted us after publicity surrounding last Apple Day. Greg is a grandson of Fred (Hoppy) and Ivy Morris and spent many happy holidays at Tallong as a child. The photos are from the 1920s and early 1930s and are in wonderful condition.

Along with these gems, photographs from the Rumsey, Davenport and Hatter family collections will be on display as will John Lombard's book *Tales of Tallong* with its photos and stories of four Tallong volunteer soldiers who are buried in Belgium and France.

After lunch, there will be a dedication ceremony for Tallong's newly installed ANZAC Centenary Plaques before the marchers leave at 2pm. They will travel from the Hall down Memorial Drive into Highland

Way, and then down Railway Parade and along old Wingello Road to Wingello, exactly the route the original marchers took.

All residents are invited to attend and give a Tallong style welcome to this historic re-enactment. It would be helpful for catering purposes if residents could inform the organisers by phone – 0418609572 or 48410324 or by email to secretary@tallong.com.au.

TCFG annual general meeting...

The AGM will be held on Thursday 24th September at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. A light supper will follow the meeting.

All relevant documents will be distributed to members. All positions will become vacant and you are encouraged to join the TCFG Committee.

Vice President Lionel Willison says he's found being on the Committee an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

President's report...

“What a momentous year for Tallong, 2015 is proving to be! Most notable is the staging of the 10th Apple Day Festival which was achieved by the active participation of local volunteers and organisations working together to hold an enjoyable event that promotes Tallong as a village with people proud of its identity related to an apple orchard heritage. Congratulations to all volunteers who performed the necessary tasks like donation collecting or selling apples from the cart. Many residents contribute through their membership of local organisations that support Apple Day.

“Congratulations also to others, who volunteer for the Apple Day Organising Committee, deliver and put together the Tallong Newsletter and those who contribute to the Tallong web site. Well done Tallong

for this collaborative effort that brings about this iconic event, Apple Day.

“Earlier in 2015 a great number of Tallong residents attended the ANZAC Centenary Service, at which Janet Black’s research into Tallong’s WW1 veterans was displayed.

“The ANZAC Centenary and the research attempted prompted the commissioning of the Tallong ANZAC Centenary Plaques to be placed at the entrance to Memorial Drive on which the Memorial Hall was built by the wartime community. The focus on the first world war heightened awareness of the damage done to the metal plaques on the War Memorial and initiated a project to restore and enhance the War Memorial.

ANZAC plaques...

“Village planning for the Kangaroo March visit on the 29th September 2015 is well underway for a picnic lunch at which locals can mingle with the marchers and see the display of the Tallong community’s war effort and take part in a dedication ceremony for the recently installed ANZAC Centenary Plaques. In October 2014, villagers joined in with Tallong Public School to celebrate their Centenary at the current site and the 1865 beginnings of schooling in the Tallong District.

“Throughout this year of celebration and commemoration, projects were initiated to improve facilities for staging the Apple Festival, the ANZAC Service and to enhance the appearance of the Village. At last year’s

AGM, members discussed these projects and nominated the principles they valued. Promotion of heritage, safety, developing tourist potential, improving village appearance and improving village amenities were guiding principles they would use when turning plans into projects. To make these improvements the village has attracted funds and in kind support from the Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Southern Phone Company and Boral as well as help from individuals with practical aspects of each project.

“To finish, I applaud the work that is done by the TCFG committee, by members and by the other organisations that make up the Tallong community, by their combined efforts all these events and projects enhance our shared life in Tallong.”

Margaret Botticchio - President TCF

Wet weather woes...

After a briskly cold winter, local residents had to cope with quite a bit of rain last week. It was the second August in a row that Tallong was hit with a rain deluge. Last year, between August 17 and 19 maximum falls across the region totalled up to 130 mm and between August 26 and 27 another maximum of 92 mm was recorded.

This year, between August 25 and 26, totals of up to 190 mm were recorded which caused Barbers Creek to flood.

What will summer hold for us?

It’s time to renew Membership of TCFG

Name:

Street address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Please tick here if a receipt is required

Enclose money (\$2.50 per person) & put in the Focus Group box at the Tallong General Store or hand to a committee member.



More on the Kangaroo March...

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, a highlight of the visit to Tallong on Tuesday 29th September by hundreds of marchers will be a display of the history of the district put together by local historian Janet Black. The main purpose is to give visitors and residents an idea of life in Tallong a century ago.

Janet was greatly assisted by the gift of a magnificent collection of old photos. This came about when Greg Watson, a Shoalhaven councillor and former Mayor, contacted us after seeing an item in his local paper about this year's Apple Festival with the offer of a box of photographs and slides dating back to the 1890s. The Focus Group was delighted to accept.

Greg's connection with Tallong is that he is the grandson of Fred (Hoppy) and Ivy Morris. He remembers spending many happy holidays in Tallong as a child.

Greg's photographs are in superb condition. Here is one to whet your appetite for Janet's exhibition, a shot of Empire Day celebrations at Tallong public school.



Wet weather photos

Our thanks to Noel De Mamiel, Tallong Park, for the following photos from the recent floods in Tallong:



